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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF CHINA

IPF:(1992-96) $176 600 000
(CPR/91/475) - Key Studies Development Project

Date of approval by the AC:[1]	23 September 1992
Expected duration:	Four and one-half years
Proposed executing agency:	Government (China International Centre for Economic and Technoloy Commission (SSTC))
Government implementing agency:	Science and Technology Bureau of the State Planning Commission
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$ 1 062 000 Source of funds: IPF
Total UNDP budget:	$ 1 062 000

Project background

Over the past 40 years, the science and technology system in China has undergone dramatic changes and growth in response to both changing needs and also as a reflection of changes in ideology. The Government of China, in its continuing efforts to reform the S&T sector and to introduce changes in the environment within which S&T activities are carried out, has initiated a National Key Studies Development Programme with financial support from the World Bank. This Programme will upgrade the physical facilities, supply a demonstration computing network facility, and provide training for researchers. UNDP has been requested to provide technical assistance to strengthen managerial capacities to implement the above-mentioned Programme and to develop pilot schemes of research management which will lead to a significantly improved impact of the activities of the selected laboratories. UNDP will also assist with the design and testing of the demonstration computer network facility.

Description of project

The project will support the Government of China's decision to reform the management of science and technology, increase the output of well trained scientific researchers, strengthen research management at both the national and laboratory level, promote linkages between research and production, and encourage scientific cooperation across institutional and national boundaries.

To these ends the project will support: (a) the development of a pilot laboratory management programme to assist seven laboratories to experiment with measures to improve management efficiency and the quality of research and training; (b) the establishment of an advisory group of Chinese and foreign experts that would provide continuing, high quality scientific, management and policy advice to key agencies; (c) the design and testing of a

[1] **This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.**

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demonstration computer network that would link two universities and several Chinese Academy of Science institutes; and (d) the increased flows of technology between research and production.

The project is consonant with CP3 principles and objectives. It is at the heart of an area designated as highest priority by the Government. The need for external expertise is clear and in line with UNDP's mandate and comparative advantages. The importance of the Programme Advisory Group (PAG) is that it will support for the overall policy guidance and implementation oversight for a complex, multi-faceted programme thus strengthening implementation and policy review capacity of the Chinese members of the PAG. The PAG will provide advice directly to the Chinese scientific system at the laboratory, institute or university, and commission level. The project which is concerned both with research management reform is also consistent with the growing emphasis of UNDP activities in China, as reflected in the recent policy report of Technology for Development in China: New Challenges for UNDP, in support of technology commercialization and transfer.

This project is aimed both at the policy and planning as well as the laboratory level. UNDP also has a project in the pipeline proposed specifically to address the issues related to commercialize the technology being developed in university laboratories. Linkage with a large National Programme, which is partly supported by World Bank IDA credit, allows access to this important area, which will be difficult through a purely stand-alone project. The leverage thus obtained and therefore the impact of the assistance will be thereby greatly enhanced.

Inputs

UNDP will provide 70 work-months of international consultants, 35 work-months of personnel training; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

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Personnel	790 000
Training	270 000
Miscellaneous	2 000
Total	1 062 000

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